



CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND CHILDREN
MINUTES
November 17, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

Pierre Batton, Co-Chair, called the meeting of the Commission on Youth and Children to order at 5:08 p.m., in the large conference room at the Parks, Recreation and Marine Senior Center. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Present:

Rebecca Turrentine, Co-Chair
Pierre Batton, Co-Chair

Fabian Gonzalez
Helen Ingram
Kate Levinstein
Jeanetta McAlpin
Lauren Perry

Jessica Quintana
Marc Rothenberg
Lou Santos
Mary Soth
Chanel Suares

Absent:

Sotheara Chhay (excused)
Jon Meyer (excused)
Victor Perez (excused)

Alexis Peterson (excused)
Chelsii Summerville
Jennifer To

Staff:

Cynthia Fogg, Superintendent, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Andrew Romero, Youth Specialist, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Dan Hendricks, Commission Clerk, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Christina Santos, Research and Data Specialist, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Guests:

Javier Vital, Ben Falaelili, Sean Daniels, Bob Cabecs & Julia Martin, CORAL
Crystal Halona, Long Beach Youth Services
Alvin Bernstein, Superintendent of Prevention and Intervention

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Soth and seconded by Commissioner Quintana to approve the October 27, 2004 Commission on Youth and Children minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMENTS

Commissioner Suarez reported that she spoke with the student who had come in to talk to the Commission about pedestrian safety concerns at the intersection of Jackrabbit Lane and Atlantic Ave. The student wrote a letter to the Commission to

convey her gratitude for the Commission helping her with this issue. Commissioner Suarez read the letter to the Commission.

Commissioner Soth reported that she had attended a Leadership Long Beach event, and was a speaker for a session on education. She felt that while the Leadership Long Beach program does excellent work, she is concerned that there are no specific programs aimed at children aged 0 – 5. With rising expectations for kindergarten students, it is critical to ensure that the basics are covered. Commissioner Soth also discussed the basics of the First Five L.A. programs that would be addressing the educational concerns of this age group. Commissioner Soth strongly advocated that more preschool programs aimed at kids age 0 - 5 be created and work with Leadership Long Beach.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

CYC administrative issues update:

The Commission chose to honor Crystal Halona for her outstanding work with youth and children in Long Beach. She was the second 21st Century Community Learning Center Site Director, based at Garfield. She has since been working coordinating and opening six new 21st Century Sites. Ms. Halona thanked the Commission for their recognition.

Cynthia Fogg also introduced the Commission to the two new supervisors of the Community Outreach Recreational Services Program, Toni Forde-Hixon and Joy Bacamante Warren.

Ms. Fogg then discussed the audio conference "The Forum for Youth Investment On Civic Engagement in Out Of School Time" held on October 28. Andrew Romero managed it for the division. Mr. Romero reported that the panel was facilitated by Karen Pittman, the founder of the Forum for Youth Investment. The conference focused on the idea that civic engagement should be a core skill, such as math or history, and that out of school time is the best opportunity to connect the youth population with the community at large, and vice versa. The panel specifically focused on three areas: Social Responsibility, Global Awareness, and Civic Literacy. Much of the programs discussed were programs that are already in place with Long Beach.

Cynthia Fogg discussed the most recent Youth Services Network newsletter, and talked about an article that focused on the work that the Commission on Youth and Children is doing.

She also introduced Alvin Bernstein, the Director of Intervention and Prevention, who was attending the commission meeting. She also introduced the CORAL Group, who was present to document the Commission and do some interviews for a bit on civic engagement.

Cynthia also reviewed the events of the previous day's Youth Services Network meeting, specifically the release of the L.A. County Children's Planning Council's Children's Status Report. She distributed copies of the report to all Commissioners.

Finally, Cynthia reminded the Commissioners that the January 11th report to Council and the January 18th Annual Forum were coming up, and that the December meeting would be the last regular Commission meeting before these events. Cynthia informed the youth Commissioners that if they needed assistance in getting out of class to attend the Annual Forum, she would work with LBUSD to get them the day off. She also discussed having an additional meeting in December to review the Annual Report.

Andrew Romero reported on the Nation League of Cities event in San Jose that promoted youth participation. There were a variety of classes, and while not all attendees made it to all classes, at least one Commissioner attended each class. Various Commissioners reported on each of the various classes, and what stood out from each lesson. Particular discussion was given over to talking about the Lakewood, Washington Youth Commission, which, by law, has to review all youth issues before they go to the City Council so they can provide a youth perspective to those issues. Mr. Romero also thanked those Commissioners who took the time to travel up and back to San Jose.

V. Co-CHAIRS REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

Commission Co-Chair Batton shared his own comments and thoughts on the National League of Cities events that was discussed during the Superintendent's report.

Commission Co-Chair Turrentine talked about the Youth Services Network meeting, and thanked Commissioner Soth for attending the Youth Services Executive Planning Committee in her place. Co-Chair Turrentine talked about the various District Level Youth Council District meetings she had attended. She also expressed her gratitude for being a member of the Commission.

VI. REPORTS

a. Committees

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Commissioners Turrentine and Batton, Co-Chairs
(November 9th meeting)

The Executive Committee planned out the Commission's agenda, and reviewed a first draft of the bylaws, though they do not plan to fully review them until after the holidays. The Executive Committee also reported that they have met with all City Council Members except Councilwoman Richardson. Staff is still working on trying to get that last meeting scheduled.

PROFILE PROJECT COMMITTEE Superintendent Cynthia Fogg
(November 3rd meeting)

They continue to work on the Profile, which will be presented to the Long Beach City Council in January. The committee covered the specifics of what they have been working on in a report later in the meeting, but they did wish to present the Profile and the Annual Report as a single document.

It was moved by Commissioner Soth and seconded by Commissioner Ingram to approve the integration of the profile data with the Commission's Year-End Report. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Standing Items

I. Education and Youth Strategic Plan

At the Network meeting, participants stressed that the Annual Report cover which outcome areas of the Strategic Plan were covered by the Commission this year.

II. District Level Youth Advisory Councils

a. Report on September DLYAC meetings.

Andrew Romero and the various youth Commissioners present reported on the following schedules for the District Level Youth Advisory Councils.

<i>District 1</i>	Still plan for a beach clean-up day for November 20 th between Cherry and Atlantic.
<i>District 2</i>	Had first meeting on Nov. 5 th , 5 youth in attendance in addition to Commissioner Perry. Reviewed general purpose of the Commission and the newly formed DLYAC.
<i>District 3</i>	Meeting later this month
<i>District 4</i>	Pending
<i>District 5</i>	Pending
<i>District 6</i>	Pending
<i>District 7</i>	Met Nov. 8 th , and again worked out more details for their charity dance, including getting a definite location for the dance. It is now going to be held at the Vault on Pine Ave.
<i>District 8</i>	Outlined a few issues involving violence in the District, and had a general discussion on the recent murder in the area.
<i>District 9</i>	Commissioner Santos reported that the 9 th District started planning events for 2005, as well as possibly running a toy drive or "Adopt A Family" for the holidays. Additionally, they were discussing forming a group to plant trees in Long Beach. They will be meeting with Councilmember Val Lerch on Dec. 21 st .

It was moved by Commissioner Quintana and seconded by Commissioner Perry to receive and file the reports from the September DLYAC meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

b. DLYAC Violence Discussion Guides.

There has been no change since the previous month, so no action was taken on this issue. The possibility of having Commissioner Rothenberg make a presentation regarding the Guides, as well as a Youth and Gang Violence Task Force presentation at future DLYAC meetings, but this will probably not occur until 2005.

c. DLYAC Outreach

Commissioner Chhay has some plans in the works, but as he was unable to attend the meeting, it was decided to hold off on these issues until he could attend.

III. Youth and Gang Violence Task Force

Commissioner Santos reviewed the Task Force meetings, which included planning a telethon to help Youth and Gang Programs. At a recent meeting with the Police Department, a discussion of youth and parent relations led to the concept of making some sort of pamphlet for the police to distribute to parents of children who are arrested. Tentatively, this pamphlet would have general legal information for the parents, as well as information for parenting classes, daycare, and other parenting aids.

The Resource Team Meeting has also chosen to adopt Police beats 4, 5 & 7 as a target area to work on, because those particular beats have a particularly high crime level. Thus, instead of focusing on the whole city, the Resource Team can focus more closely on one specific area. Alvin Bernstein and Dave San Jose have also planned to put together a panel of ex-gang members in hopes of getting input on how to deal with gangs in the area.

Commissioner Rothenberg also spoke about trying to pin down the exact goals and plans of the Task Force, and coming up with a good name or slogan should the Task Force begin a media campaign.

The Commissioners discussed the goals of the Task Force, and how best to help parents and youth who are having problems with the law at some length. There was also some concern as to the idea of a pamphlet, and whether or not some other group had already produced a similar document.

c. Report(s)

CYC Youth and Children's Profile Report Cynthia Fogg reviewed an updated copy of the Profile. She went over the basic demographic information that she had shown to the Youth Services Network meeting the previous day.

Where possible, the information is compared to the Los Angeles County statistics for comparison. Where possible, they also break down the data by Council District. Some data was not available for the County, but where possible, comparisons were added.

There had been some discussion as to the comparative timeliness and accuracy of some of the data pulled from the Department of Education and LBUSD websites, but after seeking verification from the LBUSD, all of that information in question has been confirmed.

Other data sources have not yet provided the requested data in time, so in some cases, that outcome indicator had to be dropped due to insufficient data. The hope was that in future editions, the Profile Committee will be able to obtain all desired data. Cynthia Fogg also discussed the upcoming report from a Sociology class at CSULB on a review of the data. She has not yet seen this report, but is planning on putting at least a section of it into the Profile as an outside view of the data.

Ms. Fogg also discussed the recommendations that would be added to the end of the profile to facilitate work on the profile in future years. These included the possibility of obtaining a budget for the Profile, and the formation of a data partnership to ease the data collection process.

As far as the report itself, it was suggested that statistics be sorted by size (largest percentages to smallest) instead of alphabetically or randomly.

There was also some discussion on the Health section of the Profile. As a cause of death among youth, "heart disease" was only attributed to one death, while "other diseases" was listed at seven. There was discussion that if the "other diseases" could be broken down into what the diseases were, and if one of those diseases had been the cause of death in more than one death, that perhaps whatever that disease is should replace "heart disease" on the Profile.

Cynthia also discussed some seeming contradictions on data provided by the DOJ, and indicated that they were going to verify that information. She also stressed that different departments tend to acquire and present data in different ways, so comparing data from different sources is often difficult.

It was moved by Commissioner Quintana and seconded by Commissioner Ingram to receive and file the information and approve the data for publication. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. CORRESPONDANCE

- a. **Outgoing** – Authorize staff to compose a letters of thanks to Bonnie Lowenthal and Becki Nadybal.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Youth Services NETWORK Executive Planning Committee (EPC) nomination process for recognition award – Status: Pending**
- b. **Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) Workshops for CYC (May 26th, 04)** - The CYC authorized staff to contract with YLI to organize four workshops intended to advance youth/adult relationships and their impact on policy. **Status:** The CYC has now held two of the workshops. They are tentatively planning the third workshop at some time in February or March.
- c. **Harbor Commission** – The Commission authorized staff to work with the Executive Committee to draft a point paper for submittal to the Harbor Commission.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 22nd, at 5:00 p.m.**

X. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commission Co-Chair Batton and seconded by Commissioner Perry to adjourn the meeting of the Commission on Youth and Children at 7:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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48 hours prior to the meeting, at (562) 570-3538.**